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HUNDREDS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST CIVIL DEFENSE DRILL

So many people refused to take "shelter" when ordered to do so in New rk City's Civil Defense drill on May 3 that *New York Post* columnist Murray mpton began his report with the words: "We seem to be approaching a condi- n of sanity where within a year or so there'll be more people defying than com- ing with the Civil Defense drill."

More than a thousand persons ap- ared in City Hall Park as a protest ainst the drill, and about half of them nained in their places when the si- s blew and CD auxiliary police or- ed them to take cover. Police, an- ipating the score of protesters who d appeared in previous years, were ited by their three available patrol gons to arresting only 27 demonstra- s, whom they apparently chose at dom.

For the first time, the protest move- nt spread widely to colleges and high hools in the metropolitan area. The w *York Times* estimated that ap- ximately 500 students in various hools had refused to take part in the lls. It seemed likely that many more uld have participated if authorities some schools had not threatened the dents with expulsion. As it was, re than 200 demonstrated at City Col- e, almost as many at Brooklyn Col- e, and smaller groups at Hunter, lumbia and some city high schools.

In Rockland County, home of FOR tional headquarters, six persons in- ding staff members Helen Smiley and e Stern were arrested for refusing to e shelter. Mrs. Smiley, FOR member th Best, and Paul Williams were sen- ced to five days jail each when they used to pay fines of $25; hearings Lee Stern and another demonstrator d not been held when this was written.

Simultaneously, six students in Spring lley and three in Haverstraw High hools also refused to take part in the hool drill. A larger group in the Nyack High School was left immobilized when the school authorities decided not to have the exercise.

"Sheltered." This is what CD officials labelled "success" in getting New Yorkers to take shelter from an H-bomb attack. Photo from the New York Times

Newspapers and radio-TV stations in the metropolitan area gave extensive coverage to the demonstrators, and a considerable number of thoughtful and even sympathetic editorials appeared. A Rockland County radio inserted into its Tuesday morning announcements of the drill a tape-recorded statement by FOR secretary Alfred Hassler attacking Civil Defense as a "sham."

After the drill had ended, CD authorities pronounced it a big "success" and simultaneously reported that 5,340,490 had been "killed" in the metropolitan area and 2,543,410 "seriously injured." "If this exercise was a 'success,' " wondered the *Post* editorially, "what is the definition of failure?"

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One hundred thousand demonstrators gathered at Trafalgar Square in London, last month to protest the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. During Easter week, 9,000 of them had marched all the way from Aldermaston, site of the British H-bomb plant 55 miles away, and 36,000 more marched part of the distance. Following the rally, 50 marchers started on a walk to Paris, where they will present their message to the Summit Conference.

Sponsored by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the demonstration was nearly twenty times as big as the first march in 1958. It was considered the biggest and most significant rally England has had since the Chartist processions of 1848. Most U.S. newspapers, however, relegated the event to a few paragraphs on an inside page.

* * *

FOR member William R. Martin, 21-year-old chairman of the Washington Young Friends, was dismissed as a Republican employe at the Capitol in Washington, D. C., last month as a result of a letter his group sent to 22,000 local high school students indicating that they could claim conscientious objection to the draft. Martin, who is appealing his dismissal to Vice-President Nixon and all U. S. Senators, said the letter merely set forth the position held for 300 years by Quakers and denied it was an effort to make up the minds of the students.

* * *

The Soviet Union agreed this month to a Western proposal that scientists from the United States, Britain and Russia, meet in Geneva on May 11 to work out research programs (including jointl supervised test explosions) for bette detection of small underground explo sions. Semyon K. Tsarapkin, Sovie delegate to the test ban conference, a so proposed that the Big Three pledg to hold no tests of their own while th study is in progress.

* * *

A meeting with prominent civil l berties personalities led by Norma Thomas will be held May 24 in the in terests of freeing Morton Sobell, sen tenced to 30 years imprisonment at th time of the Rosenberg convictions f passing atomic secrets to the Sovie Union. The meeting will be at Commu nity Church, Park Avenue and 35th Stree New York City.

* * *

Every clergyman living in Chape Hill, North Carolina, including the Ro man Catholic priest and the Jewish rab bi, signed a statement in March com mending nonviolent sit-ins and affirmin the right of "protestors" to seek fo "that to which they are justly and right fully entitled as citizens."

The statement was distributed in th churches and was printed as a full-pag advertisement in the local newspaper.

* * *

"An Analysis of Soviet Attitudes o the Use of Military Power," appearin in the current official *Army Information Digest*, states that the USSR is not build ing the type of military force needed t carry out a surprise nuclear attack on th United States. The article was unsigned

More Next Issue

Lack of space limits the report of actions taken by the National Council at its April meetings. More on the subject will appear in the June 1 issue of Fellowship.

Members wishing more details on the action based on the recommendations of the Committee on Organization may have a fuller report in mimeographed form on request to Alfred Hassler, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

F.O.R. NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS, VOTES ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Major changes in the organizational structure of the Fellowship of Reconiliation, recommended by a Committee on Organization appointed last fall, were dopted with minor modifications by the Fellowship's National Council after alost two days of discussion at its meetings at Nyack headquarters last month. hirty members of the Council and all 13 national and regional executive staff embers attended the meetings. Principal impact of the changes will be:

(1) Strengthening of the national xecutive staff, reduced to two by John womley's resignation as co-secretary, y four new secretaries to function incipally in the areas of the church, outh, race and finance;

(2) Strengthening of the national ffice staff by three additional partme stenographers and a part-time embership-secretary;

(3) Termination of pattern of emoyed regional secretaries within six onths, except in the case of the West oast, where decision was deferred for year pending discussions between the xecutive Committee and the Regional ommittee;

(4) Establishment of a corps of apoximately 25 "subsidized volunteers" do community peace work, with prity going to cities that have been the enters of regional activity.

Background of Report

The Committee on Organization was ppointed by the Executive Committee st October as an outgrowth of instructions from the 1959 National Counil to study possible need for changes organizational structure to strengthn the Fellowship's ability to function the current situation. It was chaired y George Willoughby, executive sectary of the Central Committee for onscientious Objectors.

The Committee's report emphasized everal points:

(1) It cited the "intolerable burden" f work on the small national staff and arned of its belief that failure to trengthen it would mean that "FOR ill continue to lose heavily in the uality of flexibility and adaptability at has been so important in the past; OR publishing activities, a most comlete form of contact with members, ill suffer severely; systematic and persevering membership recruitment will continue largely non-existent." It reminded the Council that a 1955 Council decision had called for such strengthening, but that lack of needed funds had prevented it.

(2) It observed that the present "regional" structure, adopted in an attempt to achieve maximum decentralization of effort, "had not produced the results hoped for" in terms of increased membership and support.

(3) It pointed out that the Swomley resignation had "made it imperative" that action not be deferred beyond this meeting of the National Council.

(4) It declared that within the realistic budgetary limits of the present membership contributions, there was no way apparent to achieve the stronger national staff except by diverting money from the regional staff. No one who had appeared before it, the Committee said, including two regional secretaries, had been able to suggest an alternative.

The report also underscored the fact that it was not offering an adverse evaluation of the work of individual staff members but of a pattern of organization. "The Committee believes," the report said, "that the present staff, national and regional, is both as able and committed as any (the Fellowship) has ever had."

Regional Representatives Protest

Representatives of regional committees, particularly from the Midwest and Pacific Coast, protested that although they had been sent copies of the Commitee's report and asked to discuss it, there had not been time before the Council meetings for really adequate dis-

(Continued on next page)

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cussion. A letter from the Midwest committee, distributed to Council members, pointed out that their regional secretary was greatly hampered in her work by the 1956 decision to close regional offices and eliminate almost entirely allowances for stenographic help. Members of the Committee on Organization responded that it was just such attempts to spread resources over too wide an area, for budget reasons, that the report was attempting to correct.

The Committee's report had recommended the establishment of a "branch office" on the Pacific Coast to replace the present regional arrangement. When a motion by Herman Will to eliminate this provision was adopted, Pacific Coast representatives pointed out that such action would have been done with no consultation with the regional committee, since regional discussion had been on the assumption of the branch office recommendation. The Council then approved a motion allowing the Pacific Coast regional office to continue during discussions with the possibility that the final decision might be deferred until the Council meeting in 1961.

Staff Changes Occurring

The report recommended that "regional executive staff members be offered opportunity to fit into the national staff positions being created." However, three staff members indicated their inability, for personal reasons, to consider such a change of location. The present staff situation, therefore, is as follows:

Charles Walker and the Rev. Robert E. Gussner, Middle Atlantic and New England regional secretaries, will finish their employment with the Fellowship within the six-month period.

Dorothy Calkins, Midwest regional secretary, won applause when she offered to become a volunteer field worker in the Chicago area on the termination of her work as regional secretary.

The Rev. James M. Lawson Jr., Southern regional secretary, has accepted the post of national secretary in charge of race and nonviolence. For the present, at least, in view of the situation in the South, Jim will continue to work out of a headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

Alfred Hassler was named executive secretary, while continuing as editor and publications secretary, and the Rev. Glenn E. Smiley continues as national field secretary. The appointment of Ray Arvio, formerly of World University Service, to fill the post of finance secretary, was approved.

Glenn Smiley announced that 9 volunteer field workers have already been signed up, and that applications from more than thirty others are being considered.

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